

Message Text

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60

ACTION OMB-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-05 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 SS-15 HEW-02 DODE-00 AID-05 L-02

AGR-05 /085 W

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R 232326Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4720

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 8257

PASS ED JOHNSON, OMB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AS

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: POPPY STRAW PROCESSING CAPACITY

REF: (A) ANKARA 9884 (NOTAL); (B) CANBERRA 8252 (NOTAL);
(C) STATE 262207 (NOTAL)

1. ABBOT AUSTRALIA HAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED
NEGOTIATIONS WITH POLISH GOVERNMENT FOR JOINT VENTURE
TO BUILD POPPY STRAW PROCESSING PLANT IN TASMANIA.
FINAL APPROVAL JOINT VENTURE EXPECTED THIS WEEK AND
PROJECTED PLANT SCHEDULE TO BE COMPLETED EARLY
CALENDAR 1976. PLANT DESIGNED TO PROCESS POPPY STRAW
WHICH ABBOT WILL GROW IN TASMANIA.

2. ABBOT IS AWARE GLAXO PLANT (WHICH IS IN VICTORIA)
HAS EXCESS CAPACITY AND HAS DISCUSSED TENTATIVELY
POSSIBILITY OF GLAXO PROCESSING SOME ABBOTT POPPY STRAW
IN 1975 PENDING COMPLETION ABBOTT'S PROCESSING
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PLANT. EXACT TONNAGE WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED

UNCERTAIN BUT BELIEVED TO BE COMPARATIVELY SMALL.

3. ABBOTT AUSTRALIA BELIEVES IT POSSIBLE ITS REPRESENTATIVE, WHO RECENTLY VISITED TURKEY ENROUTE WARSAW AND U.S., MAY HAVE OFFERED TO PURCHASE TURKISH POPPY STRAW BUT HAS NO FIRM INFORMATION ON THIS POSSIBILITY. THEY BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SIZE OF ANY SUCH PURCHASE WOULD BE MUCH SMALLER THAN QUANTITY ESTIMATED REF (A) FOR TOTAL CROP.

4. ABBOTT AUSTRALIA UNDERTAKING TO GET MORE INFORMATION THESE POINTS AND ADVISE US FURTHER.

5. FOREGOING INFORMATION RE ABBOTT PLANS WELL KNOWN TO AUSTRALIAN AND USG AUTHORITIES BUT IS FURNISHED ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED AGAINST FURTHER DISCLOSURE.
SIMPSON

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